

1 I claim:

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A bracket for use in operatively coupling a new building panel to a structure, having at least one existing building panel secured to a frame member by at least one existing fastener, the bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end portions, opposite end portions and a length extending between said opposite end portions; said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members being shaped and sized to marry a profile of the at least one existing building panel; and

a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end portions of said forward and rearward wall members;

said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so that they define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of the bracket; said channel being sized and shaped to substantially enclose the at least one existing fastener.

2.

The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are spaced in a substantially parallel relationship with one another.

3.

The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are comprised of a substantial insulative material.

4.

The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is shaped and sized to substantially enclose a plurality of existing fasteners simultaneously.

5.

The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is shaped and sized to substantially enclose the at least one existing fastener such that the bracket is substantially prevented from parallel movement with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

6.

The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are provided with a selected height to define a spatial distance between the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel when the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel are operatively coupled to one another.

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The bracket of claim 6 wherein said spatial distance between the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel is sufficient in size to receive a layer of insulative material.

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The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall portions are provided with a shape and height so that a substantial portion of the lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall portions engage the at least one existing building panel.

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The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are positioned with respect to one another to provide the bracket with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

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A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel secured to a frame member with at least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

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providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top wall member; and

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providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at least one bracket and is sized and shaped to substantially enclose said at least one existing fastener;

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1 shaping and sizing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall
members with a profile to marry a profile of the at least one existing building
panel;
5 aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the
profile of said at least one existing building panel;
substantially enclosing said at least one existing fastener within said channel;
positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at
least one bracket;
10 securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member
with the at least one new fastener.

11.

15 The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of forming said bracket
from a substantially insulative material.

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20 The method of claim 10 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are
positioned in a substantially parallel relationship with one another.

25 13.

The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of providing said bracket
with a select height to define a select spatial distance between the at least one
existing building panel and the at least one new building panel when the at least one
new building panel is positioned on the top wall of said bracket.

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The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of disposing a layer of insulative material between the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel.

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The method of claim 10 wherein a plurality of existing fasteners are enclosed within said channel.

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The method of claim 10 wherein the bracket is coupled to the at least one existing building panel using only the at least one new fastener used to secure the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member.

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The method of claim 10 wherein said channel is sized and shaped to substantially enclose the at least one existing fastener such that said bracket is substantially prevented from parallel movement with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

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The method of claim 10 wherein said bracket is provided with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

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